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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/840,482

04/23/2001

Chanh C. Vo

HE0146

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21495

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10/18/2005

CORNING CABLE SYSTEMS LLC

P O BOX 489

HICKORY, NC 28603

EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/840,482

Applicant(s)

VO ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 15-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 15-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. The RCE filed 04/13/05 is acknowledged.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-10, 12-13 and 15-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham et al. (5,297,199) in view of Waas (6,188,560 B1).

Graham et al., figures 6 and 9, disclose a wire termination device for providing a demarcation with subscriber lines (12) comprising a base (16) a telephone jack (40) with tip and ring contacts (43, 44), a moveable cover (24) associated with the base to be selectively closed thereon, a conductive contact (70, 71) provided on the cover that is disposed within the jack when the cover is closed onto the base. The conductive contact having a portion that electrically connects with the jack contacts when the cover is closed.

Graham et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for the conductive contact also being accessible from the exterior of the cover for providing a test contact against which a test probe and a plurality of insulation displacement connector type.

Waas, figure 5, discloses a multi-wire terminal block having a cover (106) is provided external test contact element (112). The external test contact element is established as a raised portion of the of the protection contact element (102) adapted to receive a test probe (see Waas, column 11, Waas teaches contacts must protected by grease and that grease required a reservoir in order to reservoir to work it must be on top). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modified Graham et al. to place test contacts on the top as taught by Waas for better testing.

Waas, figure 5, discloses a multi-wire terminal block having cutting contact plates (36 and 38). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modified Graham et al. to have the cutting contact plates, as taught by Waas, for better conducting.

Regarding claim 2, it is noted that Waas, figures 5 and 6, discloses the conductive contact is recessed within a cavity disposed on a forward portion of the cover.

Regarding claim 3, it is noted that Waas discloses the cavity having an opening at an upper surface of the cavity for accessing the test contact.

Regarding claims 4-6, 8-10 and 12, the combination of Graham et al. and Waas disclose the cover comprise plug assembly having a prong portion and wherein the conductive contact comprises a metallic strip disposed along a side of the prong portion and having an outwardly biased portion. Wherein the jack has a conductive member on

a lateral sidewall that is engaged by the metallic strip when the cover is closed. The conductive member being electrically connected to the jack contact.

Regarding claim 15, it is noted Waas, figure 5, discloses a pair of test probe access holes in the cover to permit the test probe to contact each test contact.

4. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham et al. and Waas as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Chalmers (4,201,432).

The combination of Graham et al. and Waas disclose the instant claimed invention except for a flexible metallic strip.

Chalmers, figure 4, discloses an electrical connector having a resilient contact arm (34) which is read as a flexible metallic strip. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the flexible metallic strip as suggested by Chalmers, in order to reflect in the same direction on insertion (see Chalmers, column 1, lines 29-37).

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 13 and 24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

**Conclusion**

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thanh-Tam T. Le  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839

TL.  
09/25/05.